

PROBE OF SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED

W. H. Jeffrey, Special Correspondent

Montpelier, Mar. 7.—Investigations into conditions at the Brandon School for Feeble-Minded Children were opened today in the county court house here before the committee appointed to conduct the hearings.

R. C. Flood of Brandon Union told of stories of abuse of children coming to him, and stated it as his belief that the institution was improperly managed. He told of children without proper clothing in the cold weather.

G. E. Mayhew, an employee, told of seeing one Knowlson beat children with his fist, and with a stick with a lash attached to the end. He stated that he had seen workmen at the institution under the influence of liquor.

R. W. Bragg told of seeing a child held under a cold water faucet on January 11 during the very cold weather. He saw children crying from cold, improperly clothed, with the toes out of their shoes, and working in icy slush up to their knees.

George Bacon stated in his testimony that it was his opinion that the farm was poorly managed. He made mention of the fact that barley was still standing there.

R. H. Footstick saw Knowlson slap children without any excuse. He said the children were going about without proper shoes.

Mrs. G. M. Burham testified to good food. She was the matron in the home, and stated that everything to her knowledge was handled well.

Dr. G. W. Gates spoke to the committee, recommending efforts of Dr. Russell, and said that he believed him to be a very much overworked man, but that the conditions were not badly pointed.

Used Straps On Children.

Montpelier, Mar. 7.—The hearing on the feeble-minded home was completed today until further notice. This

will probably end the public investigation. Nothing of a sensational nature occurred to this afternoon. Chas. Doyle and Francis Henoit both testified to seeing children abused, while Walter Lawrence said children were not properly clothed. C. S. Knowlson testified to using the straps on children but said he would permit a person to strike him in the face with as hard as he used it on children. Prof. J. W. Votey, E. C. Brigham, A. R. Bardard, J. A. Dow, F. H. McCullum, H. E. Rowe, Mildred Farnsworth, Ella Belows, Dr. Coburn, J. A. French and Dr. Russell all testified that conditions were good, the last of whom testified that attendants were instructed to be patient with children and not abuse them. Representative Young told that unknown to Russell, he had visited the home and found the conditions favorable.

LOWER WATERFORD.

The town speaking and spelling contest was held here Monday, Feb. 26, 1917. The six best spellers of the first division were: Richard L. Goss, (first prize) Louise I. Bullock, Emily I. Bullock, Earl R. Taylor, Ethel M. Forbes, Joseph H. Dussault. The second division were: Mildred E. Wright (first prize), Agnes M. Stoddard, Bessie L. Wright, James A. Stoddard, Leslie J. Lenton, Leland C. Hovey. The five best speakers of the first division were: "Jimmy Brown's Sister's Wedding," Richard L. Goss (first prize); "How He Helped Himself," Earl R. Taylor; "The Dead Doll," Emily I. Bullock; "A Legend of Character Building," Carlos D. Coffey; "Time for Bed," Joseph H. Dussault. The second division were: "Barbara Fritchie," Avis Lawrence (first prize); "Mrs. Smart Learns to Skate," Agnes M. Stoddard; "The Skeleton Soldier," Leslie J. Lenton; "The Goat and the Swing," Leland C. Hovey; "The Banner Betsy Made," Wilma I. Hemingway.—Nathaniel Reed, who has been seriously ill, is improving.—Charles Wheeler entertained the card party Tuesday evening.

ing.—Mr. and Mrs. Ellie Miles of Passumpsic spent Saturday with their daughter, Mrs. Glen Hemingway.—Joseph Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury was a business visitor in town Tuesday.—Charles Wheeler has bought a pair of work horses.

PEACHAM.

(Mrs. W. S. Sanborn, Correspondent.)

Richard B. Shaw.

The death of Richard B. Shaw on Tuesday, February 27, removes from Peacham one of her foremost citizens. His passing was not unexpected, as he had been seriously ill for some weeks preceding. The death of his wife, Mrs. Hannah B. Shaw, just before Christmas, no doubt hastened the development of a fatal malady of the heart, and lent a deepened pathway to his demise. Mr. Shaw was born in Barnet August 20, 1839, one of the youngest of a family of 10 children. His father and mother moved to Peacham when he was a young boy, and he has held his residence there ever since. Mr. Shaw was always an intense worker, and by dint of diligence, not only of hand but of brain, built up for himself a competence.

The farm which his son, Frank G. Shaw, has operated during later years, is a monument of constructive agriculture. Mr. Shaw was never a strong man, but his energy knew no rest. His ambition and activity were shared by his wife. To her, as Miss Hannah Agnes Bailey, he was joined in marriage on Christmas day, 54 years ago. She was the glorious companion of all his endeavors, and the loss of her was the going out of his light. It is hard to imagine, however, that it was in the fullness of a ripe old age, for he did not seem to be a man approaching the completion of his years. He was practically interested in the town and its constructive institutions; was a member of the Congregational church, and deeply interested in the upbuilding of the academy, besides being a generous sharer in the practical enterprises of the town. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. W. B. Martin, and a son, Frank G. Shaw, both of Peacham. Three brothers also survive him, Mr. John Shaw of Lakeport, N. H., aged 87, Mr. William Shaw of St. Johnsbury, aged nearly 83, and the Rev. H. H. Shaw, at 80 years, pastor of the Congregational church in Marlboro.

The last number of the lecture course was given on Friday evening at Academy hall and was attended by a very large and enthusiastic audience. The entertainment was splendid and \$69.40 was taken outside of season tickets. The course has been rather more expensive than usual, but the greater part of the proceeds of the last evening will be left to go toward the object of the course, the gymnasium fund.

Miss Marcia Tallier of Groton is visiting at Alonzo Halerow's.

Miss Minnie Welch of Groton and Philip Kinserson of Peacham were married at the bride's home at Groton on Wednesday evening, Feb. 28. Only the immediate relatives were present.

The G. A. R. and W. R. C. will meet for dinner with Rev. and Mrs. T. A. Carlson Saturday, March 10.

A dance was given at E. J. Hobart's garage Wednesday evening, Feb. 28. About 40 were present. Henry Hancock and Mrs. Hattie Goslant played.

A little daughter, Thelma Ella, weighing two pounds was born on Tuesday, Feb. 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Peak. The little one was too frail to live and passed away Saturday morning.

Paul Taylor, who has been so very sick for three weeks, was operated on Friday by Dr. Allen of St. Johnsbury and Dr. Hazelton of Barnet. His condition is very serious at present.

Miss Gena Wheeler was home from her school at Walden Saturday, also James Allen.

The speaking and spelling contest which was to have been on Saturday, March 3, is given up on account of so many cases of measles at Barnet.

Jean Adams is home from Massachusetts where he has been working. Mrs. F. E. Palmer and Mrs. Martin Hadden were visitors at St. Johnsbury Wednesday.

The teachers of the academy, Miss Gardiner, Be Siegel and Prof. Ross, were at St. Johnsbury Saturday.

Harold Halerow was surprised on Wednesday evening, his birthday, by about 40 of his young friends coming to help him celebrate. The evening was very pleasantly spent. Refreshments of sandwiches, cake, wafers and cocoa were served and all joined in wishing to Mr. Halerow many happy returns of the day.

Thomas Stevenson of Barnet visited his brother James at East Peacham Friday.

Miss Rose Davis, who is working for Mrs. George Gile at West Danville, is with her sister, Mrs. Alfred Peak, for a few days.

WEST BARNET.

Meeting of G. W. Pierce Pomona Grange—Personal.

(Theresa C. Blain, Correspondent.) The G. W. Pierce Pomona Grange met at West Barnet hall Friday evening. About 25 were present. A double team load driven by H. C. Kent came from Melndoes and a single team of three from Groton Grange. The officers were installed and the following program presented: Reading, Mrs. Clifford Chase; reading, Mrs. Darwin Nichols; recitation, Theresa Blain; remarks by J. H. Goodrich, H. C. Kent, H. A. Leighton. After the meeting on excellent oyster supper was served and a good time enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at Melndoes June 1.

Herbert Steele cut his foot quite badly last Monday but is able to be about again.—Elmer Bailey was at Groton Monday.—Charles Miller, who has been visiting at Elmer Bailey's, returned to Montpelier Monday.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred McLaren were at St. Johnsbury Tuesday.—Miss Wilhelmina McAllister returned to E. S. Manchester's Tuesday, after a two week's absence.—Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Blain were in St. Johnsbury Tuesday.—Mrs. Jennie Hastie and Jessie were in St. Johnsbury Saturday.—Leslie Lackie was called home by the serious illness of his mother. A trained

nurse, Mrs. Reed from Woodsville, is caring for her.—Mrs. E. S. Bailey and Miss Margaret Blair were in St. Johnsbury Friday.—The Ladies Aid met with Mrs. George Blair last Thursday. Twelve members were present and a good time enjoyed by all. The next meeting is with Mrs. Rosie Warden.—Mrs. Robert Steele visited at George Plain's Saturday.—Miss Lula Roy has returned from her work at Lowell, Mass., and is now with her sister, Mrs. Leonard Roy.—Miss Thessa Blain was home from her school over Sunday.—Miss Avis Lawrence of Watford came with her.—Last Wednesday evening the members of the West Barnet church Bible class entertained the men of the community with an oyster supper served in the village hall. An excellent stew prepared by Mr. Bushway and Mr. Thornton, was partaken of by about 70 men. When all had been well filled and cigars were lighted the Rev. Mr. Laird made a few extemporaneous remarks in a humorous vein. Charles Mahoney rendered a solo and the members of the singing school furnished several selections. As a finale "America" was sung by all present and the rest of the evening was spent in a social hour. By such meetings as this it is hoped to interest the men in the community and its welfare.

LUNENBURG.

A Baby Girl Weighing 2½ Pounds

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewis

(F. P. Balch, Correspondent.)

A tiny daughter who weighed only 2½ pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewis on Friday. At last reported mother and child were doing well.

Mr. and Mrs. Ren Goe and Master Clifford have moved to South Lunenburg and Ren will work at Riverside Farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pierce have moved to the James Silsby house, and Walter is employed by H. T. Silsby on his farm.—Mrs. A. W. Sugg and L. H. Wilson attended the basket ball game in Whitefield on Friday evening, Philip Sugg being one of the Whitefield team.—Miss Madeline Curtis and Gilbert Haynes of St. Johnsbury were week-end visitors at Fred Curtis'.

A Union Temperance meeting was held in the Congrega-

tional church on Sunday evening. This was a layman's service, the speakers being ex-representatives Kyle T. Brown and I. J. Bowker. Music was rendered by a union chorus choir and solos by Mrs. Warren Rowell and Messrs. J. W. Robinson and Gay C. Pidgeon. The attendance was good and the service one of much interest and benefit.—Mrs. George A. Balch and daughter, Christie, returned to Johnson on Tuesday of last week.—Mrs. Sarah Simonds has returned from a month's visit with relatives in Danby, N. H., and Boston, Mass.—Mrs. Arthur Johnson of Whitefield was the guest of Mrs. Amanda Bean last week.—A pleasant evening was passed by the S. and D. of L. and their friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Carpenter last Tuesday. What was played at nine tables, Miss Jessie Foster winning the first prize.—Rev. John Robinson visited a classmate in Sheffield the first of last week.—Mrs. Ann Phelps received word Tuesday of last week of the death of her brother-in-law, Isaac Glynn in Lancaster, who was well known to our townspeople.—Miss Edith Dresser of St. Johnsbury was recently a guest of Mrs. A. N. Bell in South Lunenburg.—Miss Grace Hannux of Guildhall was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Earl Lewis, last week.—Mr. and Mrs. W. G. King and daughter, Ellen, spent Friday with the C. Kings in Whitefield.—Miss Dora Wilson, who is teaching in Pepperell, Mass., came Saturday to spend a week's vacation with her mother, Mrs. Jean Wilson, and other relatives.—Mrs. James King is seriously ill at the home of Henry King at Fitzdale.—Oscar Wilson is ill with rheumatic fever. Miss Elizabeth Wormwood is taking care of him.

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Wells River Study Club.

The tenth meeting of the Wells River Study club was held on Monday evening, Feb. 26, at the home of Mrs. Foster, 23 members being present.

In the absence of the secretary the associate secretary, Mrs. Eva Learned, acted. Minutes of meetings, Jan. 29 and Feb. 12 and treasurer's report were read. A card of thanks to the club from Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Peach for flowers sent for Mrs. Munsell was read. Discussion followed in regard to the purchase of flowers in case of extreme sickness or sudden death of members, which ended in a vote passed which gave the president power to decide the matter. A letter from Mrs. Howe, who gives travel talks, on the Philippines, was left in the hands of the program committee. A note of appreciation was read from Mrs. Mary Mann for a complimentary ticket sent her for Mr. Jones' lecture. A vote was passed to send the Vergennes Industrial school 50 cents for the purchase of books and pictures. A suggestion was made by Mrs. Helen Bailey that the club have a library. Miss Eastman as chairman of the program committee, was made club librarian, and as such to receive all magazine articles relating to the club work, these articles to be removed from magazines not cut—but to be rebound and kept within easy access of the club members. A suggestion was made by Mrs.

Bashore to encourage and aid the school children in home gardening, and an endeavor to brighten up the dreary spots of the village. This was met with approval, and is to be further discussed at the next meeting.

The program of the evening was then given as follows: "A Page of Contrasts," Mrs. Adah Bailey; "The Fair of Nizni-Novgorod," Mrs. Warren; music; "A Daughter of the Revolution," Mrs. Sly; "Russian Authors," Mrs. Sherwin. The meeting then adjourned.

St. J. A. German Club Meets.

Der Deutsche Verein, the German club of the Academy held a very interesting meeting at Brantview Saturday evening. The subject of the meeting was German music. Stanley Parker read a paper on the life of the composer Schubert, and Miss Viola May rendered two Schubert improvisations on the piano. Miss Ross discussed Beethoven with interpretation on the piano by Miss Eunice McGilver.

Miss Ruth McLaughlin read a paper on Mozart and Miss Wright played parts of a Mozart concerto. A feature of the evening was the refreshments which consisted of cocoa, sandwiches and German cookies and cakes. After singing the usual German songs the meeting closed with America.



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